

Determination of Actions Required Under Component 1 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion  
March 9, 2010

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For the week of March 8, 2010, the Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -5000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -6250 cfs on a 5-day average), as allowed under the RPA.

The Service's determination is based the Smelt Working Group (SWG) recommendation made on March 8, 2010. The SWG recommended OMR flows of no more negative than -5000 cfs for larval smelt protection.

SWG cautioned that adult take limits may be exceeded if current trends in salvage continue. The group noted that current salvage rates (approximately 2 fish per day since Feb 1 and approximately 5 fish per day since Mar 1) indicate a reasonable probability that take limits could be exceeded in the coming days or weeks. Historical data show that adult delta smelt often tapers off significantly by mid-March, but this pattern is highly variable, and salvage can continue into early April. The Service will continue to monitor salvage rates in the coming week and will ask the SWG to reconvene if warranted.

Delta temperatures have exceeded 12<sup>0</sup>C since February 14 and egg size in salvage- and survey-collected females is approximately 1 mm in diameter. Therefore, the juvenile protective phase of the biological opinion (RPA Component 2; Action 3 in Attachment B) is in effect. This action will continue until June 30 or when the 3-day mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay reaches 25<sup>0</sup>C, whichever occurs earlier.